

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :B05B 15/00; A01N 33/06; F16L 9/00

US CL :138/178; 71/121; 239/542

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 138/178; 71/121; 239/542

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,364,032 A (DE FRANK) 15 November 1994, column 2 lines 53 and 65-68, column 3 lines 5-14, column 4 lines 9-11, Abstract	1-17
Y	US 5,282,578 A (DE FRANK) 01 February 1994, see entire document	1-17
Y	US 5,116,414 A (BURTON et al.) 26 May 1992, Abstract	9, 10
Y	US 4,807,668 A (ROBERTS) 28 February 1989, see entire document	1-17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*A* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 FEBRUARY 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

11 APR 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

ANDRES KASHNIKOV *Diane Smith for*

Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

WEST 1.2

search terms: drip irrigation hose, drip, irrigation, hose, root, deterrent, deterrents, deter, prevention, prevent, prevents, strip, strips, herbicide, trifluralin, copper hydroxide

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

④ LTR
② KM
RECEIVED
APR 19 2000
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To: KATHLEEN M. OLSTER
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
POST OFFICE BOX 7068
PASADENA CA 91109-7068

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

CASE # 36483 PCT. ACTION 2) Lite New Prior Art in U.S.

(PCT Rule 44.1)

REMARKS _____ FILE DATE 1/6/2000
2) 7/1/00

Date of Mailing (day/month/year) 11 APR 2000

Applicant's or agent's file reference

36483P/T67

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

International filing date (day/month/year)

19 NOVEMBER 1999

Applicant

T-SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in rules 90 bis 1 and 90 bis 3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

ANDRES KASHNIKOW

Dione Smith for

Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 36483P/T67	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5
International application No. PCT/US99/27426	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 NOVEMBER 1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 20 NOVEMBER 1998
Applicant T-SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ transcribed by this Authority.
4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 - Figure No. SA ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
 - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - ☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.
 - ☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :B05B 15/00; A01N 33/06; F16L 9/00

US CL :138/178; 71/121; 239/542

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 138/178; 71/121; 239/542

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	US 4,807,668 A (ROBERTS) 28 February 1989, see entire document	1-17

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
B earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*A* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 FEBRUARY 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

11 APR 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

ANDRES KASHNIKOW

Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

A drip irrigation hose (10) is provided that employs a root deterrent strip (40) to discourage root intrusion. The hose has an interior surface, an exterior surface, and a water supply passage (26) extending therethrough. One or more outlets (32) connect the water supply passage to the exterior of the hose. One or more root deterrent strips (40) are attached to the interior surface or the exterior surface of the hose (10) at or near the outlets (32). Each root deterrent strip comprises a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

WEST 1.2

search terms: drip irrigation hose, drip, irrigation, hose, root, deterrent, deterrents, deter, prevention, prevent, prevents, strip, strips, herbicide, trifluralin, copper hydroxide

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under Article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and of the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule" and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended ?

The claims only.

The description and the drawings may only be amended during international preliminary examination under Chapter II.

When ? Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments ?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How ? Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

What documents must/may accompany the amendments ?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confounded with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C.20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

03 August 2000 (03.08.00)

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

Applicant's or agent's file reference

36483P/T67

International filing date (day/month/year)

19 November 1999 (19.11.99)

Priority date (day/month/year)

20 November 1998 (20.11.98)

Applicant

ROBB, Alan, F.

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

20 June 2000 (20.06.00)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

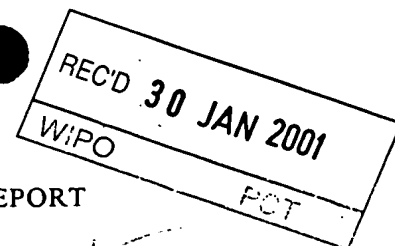
Charlotte ENGER

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 36483P/T67	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/27426	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 NOVEMBER 1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 NOVEMBER 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B05B 15/00; A01N 33/06; F16L 9/00 and US Cl.: 138/178; 71/121; 239/542		
Applicant T-SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.		

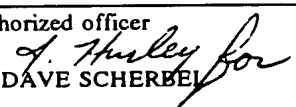
1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20 JUNE 2000	Date of completion of this report 05 JANUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  DAVE SCHERBEL Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application:*☒ the international application as originally filed☒ the description:pages 1-5, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____☒ the claims:pages 6-7, as originally filedpages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19pages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____☒ the drawings:pages 1-9, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____☒ the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filedpages NONE, filed with the demandpages NONE, filed with the letter of _____2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:☐ contained in the international application in printed form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:☒ the description, pages NONE☒ the claims, Nos. NONE☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. ☐ This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-17</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-17</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-17</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-17 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a drip irrigation hose having on its exterior one or more root deterrent strips comprising a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----
US 5,575,112 A (SCHEUBEL) 19 NOVEMBER 1996, see Abstract

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2001

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

Christie, Parker & Hale, LLP

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

① LTR
② KMC

To: KATHLEEN M. OLSTER
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
POST OFFICE BOX 7068
PASADENA CA 91109-7068

CASE # 36483 PCT ACTION _____
REMINDER _____ DUE DATE _____
DEADLINE _____

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing **25 JAN 2001**
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

36483P/T67

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/US99/27426

International filing date

(day/month/year)
19 NOVEMBER 1999

Priority Date (day/month/year)

20 NOVEMBER 1998

Applicant

T-SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.



Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

DAVE SCHERBEL

Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 36483P/T67	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/27426	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 NOVEMBER 1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 NOVEMBER 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B05B 15/00; A01N 33/06; F16L 9/00 and US Cl.: 138/178; 71/121; 239/542		
Applicant T-SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
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- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20 JUNE 2000	Date of completion of this report 05 JANUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  DAVE SCHERBEL Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

PCT/US99/7

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed☒ the description: _____, as originally filed

pages 1-5 _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

☒ the claims: _____, as originally filed

pages 6-7 _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

☒ the drawings: _____, as originally filed

pages 1-9 _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

☒ the sequence listing part of the description: _____, as originally filed

pages NONE _____, filed with the demand

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

pages NONE _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:☒ the description, pages _____ NONE☒ the claims, Nos. _____ NONE☒ the drawings, sheets/fig _____ NONE5. ☐ This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)

Claims	<u>1-17</u>	YES
Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

Inventive Step (IS)

Claims	<u>1-17</u>	YES
Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims	<u>1-17</u>	YES
Claims	<u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-17 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a drip irrigation hose having on its exterior one or more root deterrent strips comprising a fabric strip impregnated with a chemical herbicide.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

US 5,575,112 A (SCHEUBEL) 19 NOVEMBER 1996, see Abstract